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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/760,650	01/20/2004	Frederic M. Newman	08876.105017	9872

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KING & SPALDING : Jill A. McWhirter
Suite 4000
1100 Louisiana
Houston, TX 77002-5213

EXAMINER

AURORA, REENA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2862

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/23/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/760,650	Applicant(s) NEWMAN, FREDERIC M.	
	Examiner Reena Aurora	Art Unit 2862	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 November 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 8, 10 - 17 and 19 - 24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 8 and 10 - 15 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16, 17, 19 and 21 - 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 November 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This communication is in response to amendment received on 11/2/06.

Claims 1 – 8, 10 – 17 and 19 – 24 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 16 – 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bailey (GB 1602065) in view of Edens et al. (5,671,155) and further in view of Price et al. (5,720,345).

As to claims 16 and 19, Bailey discloses a method for counting pipe joints comprising producing a magnetic field (104, 106, fig. 3) near the well, moving the plurality of pipe segments (103) into or out of the well, detecting the changes (105) in the magnetic field caused by the passing of the pipe segment connectors (103) through the magnetic field, and counting the numbers of changes in the magnetic field to thereby produce a pipe segment count (page 2, lines 32 – 57 and 90 - 124). Bailey's fails to disclose a processing module to filter the noise in the signal from the magnetic field measuring device and feeding the pipe segment count into a computer system. Edens et al. (hereinafter Edens) discloses an apparatus and method for detecting and

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displaying irregularities in ferrous pipe wherein Edens teaches that it is well known in the art to filter noise from the signal to produce signal representative of changes in magnetic field (col. 1, lines 27 - 31). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the device of Bailey with the teachings of Edens by filtering the noise in the signal from the magnetic field measuring device to accurately sense the changes in the magnetic field. Price et al. (hereinafter Price) teaches a casing joint detector wherein the pipe segment count is fed into the computer system (19, fig. 1). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the device of Bailey with the teachings of Edens and further in view of the teachings of Price to feed the pipe segment count to the computer for faster and accurate determination of the pipe segment count.

As to claim 17, Bailey discloses that the changes in the magnetic flux are detected by a voltmeter attached to a coil of wire placed near the device capable of producing the magnetic field (page 2, lines 114 - 120).

Claims 21 - 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bailey (GB 1602065) in view of Edens et al. (5,671,155) and Price et al. (5,720,345) as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Relton et al. (6,720,764).

As to claims 21 - 24, Bailey, Edens and Price fail to disclose that an alarm sounds each time a pipe segment passing into or out of the well. Relton et al. (hereinafter Relton) discloses a sensor system for detection of tool joints wherein an alarm sounds each time a pipe segment passing into or out of the well (fig. 5, col. 9,

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lines 61 - 65). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the device of Bailey in view of the teachings of Edens and Price and further with the teachings of Relton such that including an alarm in Bailey's device would notify the operator instantly of the presence of the tool joints.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 20 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1 – 8 and 10 – 15 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 11/02/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's argument that claim 16 requires "a single magnetic field measuring device". Response: This limitation is not in the claim language.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Reena Aurora whose telephone number is 571-272-2263. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 7:00 - 3:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, E. Lefkowitz can be reached on 571-272-2180. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or, Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Reena Aurora


REENA AURORA
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800